

COW HORN STICK

The stick



Most club members when making a cowhorn stick inset a multitude of things- coins,badges,flowers,photo's,glitter etc. I aquired a nice cow horn and then had to decide what to do with it.

The first and foremost requirement is that it must be comfortable to walk with everything else purely aesthetic

when holding the horn balance on a shank (loads of Blu Tac & masking tape) it was too upright and uncomfortable at the wrist, tipping the horn forward sit tarted to come comfortable - How to incorporate this into the design - sketching it out immediately solved it -A wedge shaped spacer- which threw up another problem - mounting it to the shank, not practical to drill the horn in line with shank due to curvature sketching again solved it - bend the studding eureka start making.

I then decided that I would like to have a black cap on the open end with a whit central ring (to compliment the colouration of the horn).

The process:-

Cow Horn is hollow - fill using car body fillier, leaving a well at the top for cold cast resin.

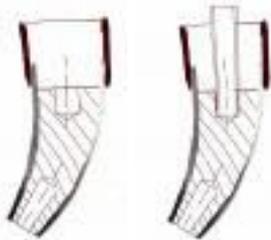


next stage when set, drill hole for studding and drill 15mm dia hole in center of



open end by approx 10mm deep

next stage was to form a well/reservoir to take the resin and epoxy in a length of 15mm dia plastic



water pipe

next job was to mix the resin and catalyst with the addition of a black dye and pour into reservoir



and tube

after the resin had cured the masking tape was removed and the process of reducing the sticking out bit to a beautiful highly polished domed using rasps,files reducing grades of wet and dry carborundum paper and final TCut and polish. then fix the bent studding ready for mounting to shank



The shank chosen was Hazel and the handle was fitted - completed or so I thought. My critical adviser, (the wife) took one look and remarks "the shank doesn't match the colour of the handle, True, I had used a light golden coloured hazel with a black and white handle. Help now what, on closer inspection of the shank I noticed that the shank appeared to be naturally ribbed a eureka moment, Picked up the short length I had cut off the shank got the paints out (acrylic) and painted it black, when dry I lightly sanded it down to remove the paint from the peaks leaving the valleys black - beautiful (people still ask what wood is the shank :-))

Repeated this on the shank finished with 5 coats "Tung Oil" to seal and the Critic was happy. Job done.